

National Park Service

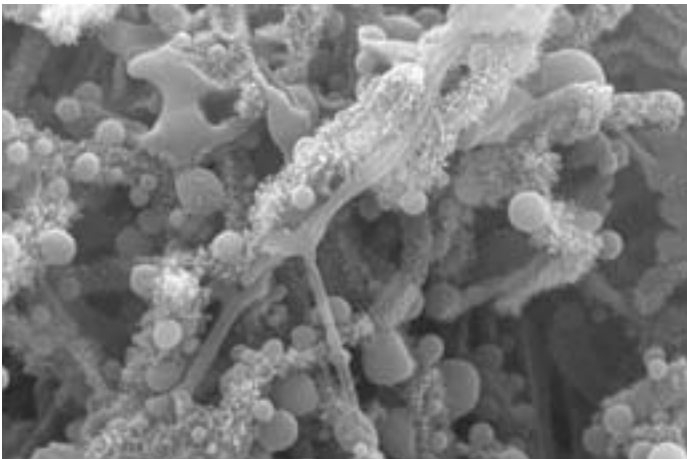
U.S. Department of the Interior



Benefits-Sharing

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

September 2006



Servicewide

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

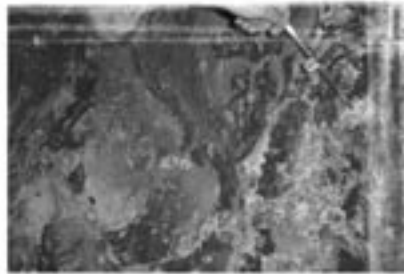
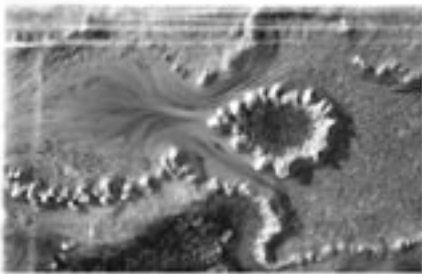
National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

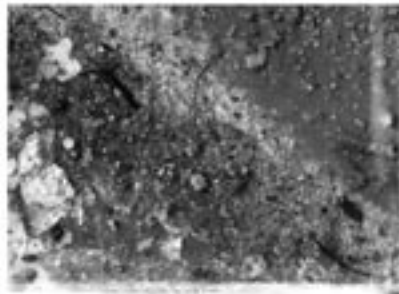
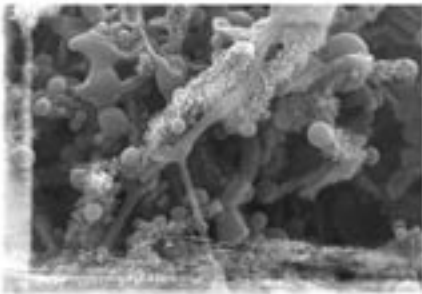


Benefits-Sharing

Draft Environmental Impact Statement



September 2006



Servicewide

Cover photos, clockwise from top left: filamentous bacteria and algae, Upper Geyser Basin, NPS/Hirschman; bacterial products, Spider Cave, Carlsbad National Monument, Kenneth Ingham; bacteria from bacterial mats on the walls of Pahoehoe Cave, El Malpais National Monument, Michael N. Spilde and Diana Northup; thermal algae, NPS/Dunmire.

Servicewide Benefits-Sharing DEIS

COVER SHEET

(A) Responsible Agency: Prepared by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

(B) Title and Location: Servicewide Benefits-Sharing Draft Environmental Impact Statement

(C) For information contact: NPS Benefits-Sharing EIS

PO Box 168

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

voice: 307-344-2203

benefitseis@nps.gov

(D) This is a draft of the DEIS for review.

(E) Abstract: This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) presents and analyzes a servicewide programmatic proposal to clarify the rights and responsibilities of researchers and NPS management in connection with the use of valuable discoveries, inventions, and other developments that result from research involving specimens lawfully collected from units of the National Park System. The DEIS examines the potential environmental impacts of implementing benefits-sharing agreements when information derived from research specimens collected from units of the National Park System results in commercial value. In addition, the DEIS examines the potential environmental impacts of continuing the current practice of not requiring benefits-sharing (the “no action” alternative), or barring researchers whose studies might result in commercially-viable products from collecting research specimens in the national parks. The nature of this DEIS, whose purpose is essentially to examine the possible effects of implementing certain types of contracts, is such that its affected environment and impact topics relate primarily to administrative functions of the NPS. As a servicewide programmatic DEIS, the affected environment and relevant impact topics have the potential to include all units of the National Park System.

(F) Comments on this draft must be received by December 15, 2006.

How to comment: Public participation is very important to the decision that the DEIS describes. Therefore, we ask for your thoughtful evaluation and comment. Comments can be provided directly via the Internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>, select “Washington Office” from the park choice menu and then follow the link for benefits-sharing. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at the Yellowstone Center for Resources, 307-344-2203. You may also mail comments to the name and address above. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the Yellowstone Center for Resources in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

Our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

We thank you in advance for your attention and we appreciate your concern for the future of the National Park System.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK